

REMOTE ONLINE WITNESSING/INSPECTION SERVICES (ROWIS)

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ABSTRACT

In this paper attention will be paid to ROWIS as an alternative tool to perform consulting services remotely. During the Covid-19 period, when traveling was highly limited, the idea was developed to perform witnessing and inspection services remotely, with a comparable quality compared to that of life services.

A testing activity will be reported, highlighting the pros and cons that are related to the application of ROWIS.

So far ROWIS may be considered as a useful alternative for life witnessing/inspection service but still some work has to be done to convince the market.

KEYWORDS

Remote, Online, Witnessing, Testing, FAT, Power cable systems

INTRODUCTION

In this paper attention will be paid to Remote Online Witnessing/Inspection Services (ROWIS). Business travelling jobs can put a strain on company business operations and the employees asked to perform the jobs. Moreover, a pandemic can result in restrictions and increases the risk of travelling. Depending on the complexity of contracts, the level and type of expertise required can differ considerably over witnessing activities and if the travel is removed a specialist can be engaged in a short time where its engagement can bring most value.

During the Covid-19 period, when traveling was highly limited, the idea was developed to perform witnessing and inspection services remotely, of course with comparable quality as compared to life services.

In general, the method of ROWIS can be applied on a large number of tasks and services, ranging from simple consultancy services to the performance of operation- or asset surveys. This may for instance cover the following:

- General consultancy, minor engineering support
- Investigation of incidents
- Equipment (or vessel) inspection and surveys, subcontractor and supplier audits
- Annual vessel dynamic positioning and dynamic positioning failure mode effect analysis (FMEA) trials
- Facilitation of and attendance at Project Risk Assessments (Hazop, HIRA)
- Attendance at simple onshore and offshore operations
- Witness of evaluation or assessment activities (e.g. FAT).

There are however some applications for which ROWIS will not be suitable or should not be applied without special considerations, typically high-risk activities which require additional due-diligence when surveying remotely. Examples are:

- Activities that require highly focused visual inspection

as per an international standard or recommended practice

- Activities denoted with a high level of verification by owner, end-user or 3rd party
- Activities requiring a high level of situational awareness, i.e., offshore operations where several momentaneous activities in the operation area needs to be monitored at the same time.

It should be noted that for some services, there may be legal, regulatory and/or statutory limitations, (for instant a Governmental Body, a Notified Body, or similar) rendering the concept of ROWIS unacceptable. In such cases the use of ROWIS will have to be pre-approved in writing by the relevant Authority.

Note also that in case the quality assurance (QA) requirement, that is the background for inspection/witnessing, is imposed by the Insurer (for instance in a warranty clause), the scope and application of ROWIS will have to be specifically agreed with the Insurer.

The applicability of ROWIS should be assessed on case by case basis. Alterations to supplier contractual arrangements and agreements may also be required to facilitate remote survey.

Next to pros and cons of ROWIS, we will make a report of a few pilot testing activities, including evaluation in strong and weak points and in points of improvement.

Finally in the conclusions the balance will be drawn up of ROWIS for regular future use.

PROS AND CONS

As ROWIS was introduced as a necessary alternative due to the limited traveling options, at the same time a number of interesting advantages can be envisaged.

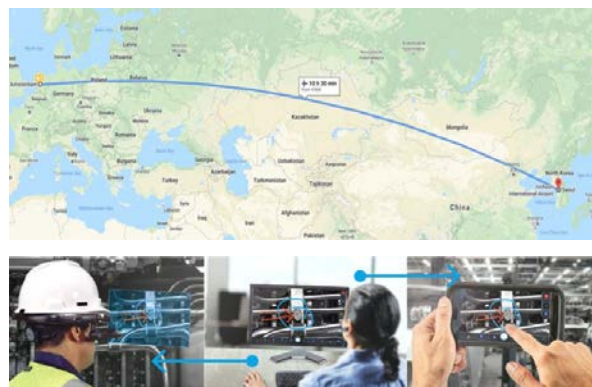


Figure 1: Remote cooperation between experts without traveling

These advantages will be further discussed here below in good balance with a number of inescapable disadvantages.